

Oswald Letter Is Probed

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The Justice Department has started an investigation into the destruction of a threatening letter that Lee Harvey Oswald delivered to the Dallas FBI office shortly before the assassination of President Kennedy.

A knowledgeable department source said yesterday that the matter has been turned over to the department's Criminal Division. The FBI, under orders from Director Clarence M. Kelley, is conducting its own internal probe of the case.

Oswald, the accused assassin who was shot and killed by Jack Ruby before facing trial, reportedly threatened to blow up a Dallas police station unless the FBI ceased its efforts to find him.

The letter containing the threat was delivered to the Dallas FBI office in early November, 1963, and reportedly was destroyed soon after Kennedy was assassinated Nov. 22.

The Warren Commission did not learn of the letter during its investigation of the assassination.

The department source said it seemed unlikely that criminal charges would be brought for actual destruction of the letter because the statute of limitations has expired for prosecuting such offenses as obstruction of justice or destruction of evidence. However, the time limits are much more flexible for bringing a conspiracy charge.